



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Grand groundhog opening

Austin Buchs, acting 222nd Base Support Battalion commander during Groundhog Shadow Day, performs the ribbon cutting honors at the grand opening of the new School Age Services building. With Buchs is his father Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, the real 222nd BSB commander, Gwyneth Bowen, School Age Services coordinator, and Joanne Hernandez, Child Development Services coordinator. The renovated state of the art facility is available for first through sixth grade students and includes a gym as well as a cooking and food preparation station for the children and a large basement storage area. The facility, renovated at a cost of \$1,069,000, also includes a computer lab and an arts and crafts room as well. Another \$350,000 was invested in furniture and other materials for the facility.

A note of thanks

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Bundeswehr soldiers are now watching out for U.S. interests in Germany. What this means is that German soldiers recently took over force protection duties at Baumholder and all other U.S. installations in Germany.

The first unit, whose soldiers were from Logistic Regiment 17 in the Magdeburg area and the officers and NCOs from the Verteidigungsbezirks kommando 10 in Hamburg, arrived Feb. 4 and stayed through Feb. 21.

"As the first

unit to take over the force protection duties here, the officers, NCOs and soldiers would like to thank all who supported us. Everyone from the S2-3 to the cooks was very supportive. We were well received and there was absolutely no problem. And that's why we would like to say thank-you," said Hauptfeldwebel Andreas Schneider, 1st Sgt. for the unit.

He added that the same unit would return in October but that he personally would not be accompanying the soldiers.

"We didn't know what to expect," he said. The details, of course, were ironed out and discussed in advance but "we didn't really know what to actually expect," said Schneider.

"We were all very positively surprised that all the U.S. soldiers, regardless of rank, came together to help. It was a good working relationship. And that was really great," he said.

As in any new venture, there were a few unforeseen issues that cropped up but even they were not a problem. "When we had a problem we went to Bianca Bowen and she took care of it," said Schneider.

"I personally thank Major John Bettasso, Ms Bowen and all others that had anything to do with our support. They really made our stay here very easy," he said.

"Working with these soldiers was a true pleasure because of their true determined professionalism and their unwavering support of our community both during



1st Sgt.

Andreas Schneider

ing our recent force protection exercise and the real world mission that they took on," said Bettasso. "They are extremely professional and it makes us proud to serve with them. Their ability to work with us in supporting the force protection

mission, the flexibility and the resolve that they've had is truly commendable," he said.

Bowen noted that it was literally a seamless transition of force protection responsibilities and that the German soldiers were well received by everyone. "The German soldiers have been well received by the military and civilian community here," said Bowen. "Everyone in Baumholder is grateful for the support they are providing for our community," she said.

Working with the U.S. military was a new experience for the German soldiers but "It was an official assignment that we received and it had to be accomplished," said Schneider.

"Naturally duty at the gates is rough. I'm sure your soldiers also realized this.

"But they enthusiastically accomplished their job and everywhere we went we had help and support. It was great," he said.

"For me personally, it was a great thing," said Schneider. "I learned a lot about how we can work things out together. It was a real enrichment for me and they were two great weeks."

Main gate closes for renovation

Baumholder's main entrance to Smith Barracks will close for renovation beginning March 10. 222nd Base Support Battalion officials urge everyone's cooperation during this renovation process that will enhance traffic flow procedures. A reopening date has not been determined.

Phantom regiment keeps history alive

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Are you an Army history buff with a desire to know what it felt like to be a part of yesterday's Army? Maybe you'd like to experience the feel of an M1 carbine in your hands, or ride in an open general purpose vehicle, better known to the GIs of yesteryear as a JEEP.

Perhaps you'd feel more comfortable tooling around Baumholder in that popular half breed with wheels and tracks commonly referred to as a half-track? If armor makes you break out in goose bumps, how about slipping behind the controls of an operational vintage M4-A1 Sherman tank powered by an engine that makes it sound like it should be airborne?

Throw in the occasional opportunity to travel and bond with other aficionados of military memorabilia and you can consider yourself a candidate for Baumholder's Phantom Regiment, a living history detachment dedicated to preserving the Army's heritage.

The Phantom Regiment is look-

ing for recruits to join their ranks and bring a little bit of Army history back to life by maintaining, operating and displaying historical U.S. Army equipment and gear.

The regiment obtains all of its equipment and uniforms from Baumholder's 1st Armored Division Museum. The JEEPs, half tracks, and antique armored vehicles actually belong to the museum. Members of the regiment volunteer to maintain the equipment and display it at nostalgic military gatherings in Europe and other appropriate settings. When they travel, they often are the only U.S. military representatives at these shows that draw scores of military buffs from throughout the continent.

The Phantom Regiment is currently comprised of soldiers from the 1-35th Armored Battalion but any soldier who would like to join their ranks is welcomed.

Persons interested in signing on with this elite group of flashback GIs may call Spec. Tony Housey at mil485-7194 or cell (0162) 891-3687. He may also be reached by email at cavalrydog@hotmail.com



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Sgt. Jeremy Rickettes, Pvt. 1st Class Darrell Borst, Sgt. Major Joseph Hall and Spec. Tony Housey model some vintage uniforms and equipment.

Post notes

Automotive class

The University of Maryland is offering a special class for automotive technology March 11 through April 5, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6–10 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Register now at your Baumholder Army Education Center.

New museum hours

To better accommodate soldiers and their families during their off-duty time, the 1st Armored Division Museum in Baumholder now has new operating hours. The new hours are Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Tax forms available

Service Credit Union is now providing laser-printed Internal Revenue Service tax forms for 2002 and previous years. Customers may request these forms from any SCU branch office.

Sports roundup

A community level soccer and volleyball meeting is scheduled at 5

p.m., March 6 in the Hall of Champions. Persons interested in playing one of these sports are encouraged to attend.

A boxing night is scheduled March 15 in the Hall of Champions. Weigh-ins and physicals are from 10 a.m. – noon and bouts begin at 6 p.m.

A power lifting meet is scheduled at the Mountaineer Fitness Center March 29. Weigh-ins are from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. and competition begins at 11 a.m.

Winter sale

The Baumholder Community Spouses Club Thrift Shop is now having a big winter clearance sale. The thrift shop is located right next to the Service Mart in Building 8544, across from the PX. Its hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Consignment hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 2 – 4 p.m. For more details call civ (06783) 6-6653 or mil 485-6653.

Community tests response capabilities



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

German Red Cross members, U.S. fire fighters, Baumholder clinic personnel and military police respond to the mass casualty exercise with all their equipment and resources.

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Responding to multiple emergency situations, be they real world or simulated, is something the U.S. military does for a living. The reality of it is that the military does not always act alone in emergency situations so Baumholder enlisted the assistance of numerous U.S. civilians and agencies recently to help exercise its emergency response and force protection capabilities. Local host nation organizations like the German Red Cross and Polizei were also key players in the exercise.

Anyone passing through Baumholder's gates Feb. 12 quickly noticed a difference in security procedures as the facility exercised the escalation of the numerous force protection postures.

"We tested the mass casualty plan, the activation of the emergency evacuation shelter, the barrier plan and guard force requirements," said Bianca Bowen, 222nd Base Support Battalion S-2. "We also had host nation support and involvement during the exercise," she said. Overall, it was a very successful exercise," she said.

On the American side, participants included the 222nd BSB, 2nd Brigade, Division Artillery and Health Clinic. "We also had support from the Junior ROTC, who participated as casualties in the exercise and from a group of volunteer family members during the emergency evacuation and shelter plan portion of the exercise," said Bowen.

While Ponds Security Service guards and soldiers were busy throughout the day inspecting vehicles as they entered the post, numerous agencies came together during a key portion of the exercise that exercised Baumholder's capability to respond to a mass casualty situation. Made up in Moulage to simulate a wide range of injuries, JROTC members braved the chilly weather and provided realistic casualties for response teams from Baumholder's fire department, the health clinic and the German Red Cross.

First on the scene was Baumholder military police, who immediately notified emergency response agencies. No short cuts were taken. Every emergency team that responded used all the equipment and material that would actually be used in a real emergency. Donning their respirators, the fire fighters

evacuated the injured on stretchers, while clinic personnel went as far as filling out paperwork with personal information from the injured. The fire department also unpacked and inflated a temporary shelter that served as a staging area for the injured. There, German Red Cross participants broke open their medical kits and applied bandages and even strapped intravenous needles, hoses and bottles (without piercing the skin) to the most serious injuries.

"Everyone from the JROTC, to the volunteer family members who were actually residing at the Lagerhof when it was evacuated, to the emergency response teams such as the German Red Cross and Polizei were great. There was excellent support from everyone," said Bowen.



A volunteer victim lays unconscious before being evacuated from the warehouse. Members of Baumholder's Junior ROTC volunteered to add realism to the exercise.



German Red Cross members hook up an intravenous medication bottle to a victim taken out of the warehouse after a simulated explosion.



A force protection team of soldiers and Ponds Security Service guards thoroughly inspect each vehicle passing through Iron Crossing Gate.

ISA prepares soldiers for deployment

By Ignacio “Iggy” Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Some 20 years ago, the focus of U.S. Forces in Europe was to defend Europe against aggression from their eastern borders. U.S. Army units concentrated on their capability to reach their German Defense Plan positions should the need arise.

As the Geopolitical climate continues to evolve in Europe and throughout the world, so does the mission of U.S. Army in Europe. The name of the game today is deployment, leaving Europe to fight the battle elsewhere.

Baumholder has taken the lead and in doing so has set the standard for deployment operations in the European theater. Deploying soldiers along with their equipment and vehicles need to be ready for any contingency once they leave their home base. Therefore, Baumholder’s 222nd Base Support Battalion has developed the Installation Staging Area, a sequence of stages that track and wheeled vehicles must pass through before deployment.

To get deploying units acquainted with the ISA process, units leaving Baumholder to train in Grafenwoehr or Hohenfels must process through the ISA just like they would during a real deployment.

“One of the things the ISA is doing is that it helps us prepare and

ensure that our vehicles and equipment are ready to get onto rail and onto ships and that those vehicles are in fighting condition once we get at the other end,” said Maj. Robert McAleer, 1-94 Field Artillery.

“We’re not likely ... to fight here in Europe. So we’re decreasing the time between a deployment order and the time that we would physically get out of here and be ready to fight somewhere else,” said McAleer.

The stages cover everything from mechanical checks to documentation. When vehicles first arrive at the ISA, they are received and inspectors ensure drivers have an appropriate checklist and paper-

work.

The next phase involves vehicle documentation. “There’s just a ton of different paperwork that has to be filled out. Each battery has about a two week school in Vilscek to get trained up on this paperwork,” said Capt. Richard Johnson, 1-94 Field Artillery.

The vehicles then move to the mechanical check point to ensure everything is in working order. “If something is broken or if the vehicle documents are faulty, the vehicle is what we call ‘frustrated,’” said Johnson. “The vehicle goes to the ‘frustrated vehicle’ area, which

is at Camp Aulendorf right now,” he said. “There, our ... own battery maintenance people will come down to fix the vehicle,” said Johnson.

The last stage of the ISA is the fuel and defuel stage. “This stage is just to make sure that they have the proper amount of fuel either to get on the train or to go on a road convoy,” said Johnson.

It can take about a half hour to 40 minutes for a vehicle to go through the ISA if it doesn’t have to wait in line or if it doesn’t have a problem.

After successfully completing all the stages, track vehicles go to the rail head and wheeled vehicles

go to Camp Aulendorf. “They then get regrouped ... and they get on the road to their next destination,” said Johnson.

Surveying the recent success of 1-94 FA at the ISA, Johnson said, “We have the entire battalion going through in two days. We’re trying to get about 160 vehicles through the ISA. We have a deadline because we need to get them on the rail cars to get them to Grafenwoehr.

We shouldn’t have any problem. We’re a little bit ahead of schedule so everybody is in good spirits.”



Staff Sgt. Barry J. Barkley, 1-94 Field Artillery, inspects a vehicle at the first station of the ISA.



Photos by Ignacio “Iggy” Rubalcava
Vehicles are carefully inspected for any mechanical defects at the second station of the ISA.



Vehicles cue up at the receiving station of the ISA. Here, inspectors ensure the vehicle has all the necessary paperwork to process through the ISA.